TEN MINUTES

ADVICE

Questions!

TO

FRESHMEN.

——— *Sapere aude.*
Incipe. ——— HOR.

CAMBRIDGE,
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BRITISH MUSEUM

GENTLEMEN,

YOU ſee exhibited, in the window of almoſt every Bookſeller's ſhop, ſome little Treatiſe, intitled, "Ten Minutes Advice to a Farmer." —"Ten Minutes Advice to a Gentleman going to buy a horſe, &c." But nobody has yet thought proper to beſtow Ten Minutes Advice upon a body of people, who may, perhaps, want it more than either: —I mean the younger part of a conſiderable

Univerſity, generally diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of Freſhmen.

You are all let looſe into the world, and left intirely to your own judgements, with ſcarcely any one particular friend, who may intimate to you your miſtakes, or tell you by what methods you may avoid them. I think myſelf, in ſome meaſure, intitled by my experience to endeavour to remedy this deficiency. And although the difference between your ages and mine may be comprized in a few moons; yet, from an acquaintance of ſome ſtanding with the manners of the Univerſity, you will not think it at all vain in me, if I ſay, that

that I am better informed of them than you can poſſibly be.

My preſent deſign is, by throwing together a few thoughts upon the ſubject, to enable you to reap the benefit of that acquaintance; and to ſteer you clear of thoſe rocks and quickſands, of which if I had been preſented with a chart, when in my noviciate, as you are, I might have avoided no inconſiderable ſhare of vexation and regret. — That I may be the more familiar with you, I ſhall alter my addreſs from the plural to the ſingular number.

I ſuppoſe you, then, parading the ſtreets, with your gown, according

to the cuſtom of Freſhmen, time immemorial, tucked up under your arm; your pocket, by the bounty of your friends, tolerably repleniſhed with money, and yourſelf in a very happy diſpoſition to ſpend it. — The firſt thing to be ſeen after, if it be not already provided, is the furniture of your room. — And here I would adviſe you, ſhould you be recommended to Mr. S. the Upholſterer, (as probably you will) to be very conſtant in your applications to him, — in ſhort — to dun him heartily, or you never will get what you want. He has, in general, ſo much buſineſs upon his hands, that,

that, notwithſtanding he will make you promiſes, and with the greateſt civility imaginable, of ſending your chairs, tables, &c. immediately; yet from his being obliged to pay an equal degree of attention to ſo many other cuſtomers, it is great odds but you are neglected. Inſiſt upon having what you have purchaſed inſtantly ſent home; and if you find him ſtill dilatory, and yourſelf unprovided for, tell him, once for all, that if you do not receive the reſt of your things within a reaſonable time ſufficient for their conveyance to you, that you will return him every ſtick of what you have already received, and apply ſome-

where elſe. This is the only way, to ſucceed with him: and as it is very probable, if your father or guardian be with you, that the bills for your furniture will be diſcharged immediately, I ſee not the leaſt reaſon why you ſhould not be immediately attended to.

After you have, with ſome trouble, got poſſeſſion of ſuch articles as are abſolutely neceſſary, I would recommend to you, to endeavour according to the length of your purſe, to ſee that every thing be *comfortable* about you. Buy whatever *minutiæ* you may probably want for conſtant uſe, at once; and do not defer procuring

curing them till you have ſuffered as much inconvenience from their deficiency as is equivalent to treble their purchaſe. I have known a man more incommoded for three years together from the want of a cheeſe-toaſter, than he would almoſt have been from the want of a bed to lie on. Let not this be your caſe. You may, at a very ſmall expence, avoid being ſaddled with ſuch petty inconveniences; and I need not ſay how much more eaſy and cheerful a man feels himſelf, when every thing he has occaſion for is to his mind, than when he is perpetually liable to be harraſſed for trifles.

I ſup-

I ſuppoſe you to be provided with a competent ſhare of money. The next thing to be done, after fixing you in your room, is to teach you how to ſpend it. This you ſay you know already. So you do, — in one ſenſe of the word, — how to get rid of it: but this you will ſuppoſe is not my meaning. — My deſire is, to unite in you, with a proper attention to œconomy, the liberality of a Gentleman; — and it is by no means impoſſible to be done. The ſureſt, and indeed the only way to effect it, is to keep regular and exact accounts of every thing you pay and receive. It is very little trouble, and will, by

uſe,

uſe, become agreeable to you. Of this you may reſt perfectly ſatisfied; — that a man who knows, to a ſhilling, what is his income, and alſo what are his expences, muſt be a very ſtrange fellow if he does not proportion the one to the other. If you have no ſettled determinate allowance, (which I muſt ſay, if you can in the leaſt be depended upon, I think you ought to have) but are obliged to ſend home all your bills as they come to hand, you will juſtly obſerve to me, that you cannot make this proportion. — There will be no harm, however, in being able to tell, both for your own ſatisfaction, and

that

that of your friends, through what channels your money has paſſed: and this advantage will, at leaſt, be derived from it, — by obſerving what needleſs or ridiculous expences you have been at, you will be ſufficiently upon your guard how you expoſe yourſelf, in like manner, to your own judgement again.

As you are a Freſhman, I think it highly neceſſary to caution you againſt throwing away your money in baubles and gewgaws. You think you have plenty of it; and that twenty or thirty guineas for pocket-money will laſt you in infinitum: — but, take my word for it, it is more than you will,

will, fairly, and without owing it to any one, ever have again. You are, as yet, unacquainted with the various modes of "making money fly" (as it is called) in the Univerſity.—You need not be over anxious.—Riches will fly of themſelves, without your giving them wings; and if you ſuffer your ready caſh to melt away imprudently, and without regarding how it goes, you will be in the greateſt danger, if not within an abſolute certainty, of having more diſagreeable applications made for it, after it is gone, than you will perfectly approve of. All this may very eaſily be avoided by a little order and method. You

will

will find yourſelf not only more eaſy and comfortable in conſequence of it, but will be at leiſure to purſue your literary undertakings with tenfold ſpirit and vigour.

The ſubject I am upon reminds me very forcibly of the article of *Ticks*, which I moſt earneſtly intreat you to beware of. Avoid bringing them about you as you would a peſtilence. Pay for every thing you want (except for thoſe articles which muſt neceſſarily be tranſmitted through the hands of your tutor) immediately: and if you cannot ſpare ready money for it juſt at that inſtant, do not buy it till you can. It is better to ſuffer a tempo-

rary

rary inconvenience, than to be tormented with a laſting evil. This laſt article of TICKS I inſiſt upon very ſtrongly. — I have met with inſtances of men, not intentionally extravagant, who, from not attending to their accounts at firſt coming to college, have ſubjected themſelves ever afterwards to the inſults of any man to whom they were indebted five ſhillings. — They have lived in continual fear, diſſipation and idleneſs; and have, to all intents and purpoſes, loſt three as important years as any in the whole courſe of their lives: — and all this merely for want of a little care and attention at firſt. I could

make

make you half angry, by enlarging upon this "dry and diſagreeable," though neceſſary ſubject; but as I ſhould, in that caſe, far exceed the limits of the time mentioned in the title-page, I muſt content myſelf with once more requeſting your attention to that poor neglected word, *Œconomy:* and you may reſt aſſured, that, in conſequence of that attention, you will not only avoid a numerous tribe of evils, but will have a far greater proportion of money to be employed in the liberal amuſements of a Gentleman.

I ſhall next proceed to that equally important article, *Time.* *You* would, perhaps,

perhaps, have begun with it, — it matters not much. — The employment of your time, and the ſpending of your money, are ſo nearly connected, that they may, in many reſpects, be deemed as one and the ſame thing. — However, money was the firſt that occurred to me: — now let us proceed to time.

You are juſt freed from the tedious and unwelcome reſtraint of a ſchool, or of a private tutor. You think that you have nothing to do but to make up for, what you may call, your former *loſt* time, by your earneſt purſuit of pleaſure. — That you have been confined long enough, — and

that you have nothing to do now but to make holiday; — to eat, drink, and ſleep, and riſe up to play. — But here ſuffer me to put in a caveat. — I wonder not that you ſhould entertain theſe opinions; — nine Freſhmen out of ten have entertained them before you: — but nine Freſhmen out of ten have been miſtaken. A man come piping hot from a public ſchool or an academy, is ſurprized to find that he has, apparently, ſo much leiſure. He attends lectures, perhaps, not above two or three hours in a day; and he, very plauſibly, concludes that the reſt of it is his own; —forgetting, unluckily, the neceſſity

of

of ſome application to the queſtions which his tutor has diſcuſſed, that he may give him ſome tolerable anſwers to them the next day. — The conſequence is obvious. — He finds himſelf, at the following lectures, far unequal to his companions, who have beſtowed a proper attention to the ſubject propoſed, — ſees that he makes but a very inſignificant figure, — grows diſſatisfied with himſelf, — lays the fault upon "thoſe d——d dry muſty Mathematicks;" and at length fairly kicks them out of doors: — devoting his future hours to hopeleſs languor and inattention, or to purſuits the moſt frivolous and contemp-

 tible,

tible, and, in every reſpect, utterly unworthy of his regard. This is the real ſtate of the caſe, I am afraid, with many a man, not naturally ill-diſpoſed; but loſt to himſelf, his friends, and the world, from the want of taking one right ſtep at firſt. The circumſtance of having three years before him, has miſled many a one into an error that was afterwards irretrievable. "I have plenty of time," ſays he, "and therefore ſure I may "play a little; — I can fagg pretty "tightly for the laſt year, take a de-"cent degree, and do as well as any "of them." — Aye! there's the rub, as Hamlet ſays. — He puts off the

evil

evil day till to-morrow, and there are great odds, whether that to-morrow ever come at all. There is now and then an inſtance of a man of a quick and ſprightly genius who ſurprizes us by the progreſs he makes, by the application of only a ſhort ſpace of time to ſtudy. — But inſtances of this kind are but rare; and ſhould by no means encourage us to believe, that we have the ſame ſuperior underſtandings: and where one man, take his abilities as it may happen, keeps to his reſolution of reading hard during the laſt part, and only the laſt part of his reſidence at the Univerſity, I am afraid there

are numbers, with the ſame penitent reſolutions, who do not.

The majority of theſe after-ſtudents, feeling themſelves ſtrongly attached to thoſe habits of lounging and diſſipation, which they have been ſo long in acquiring, and that the hill of ſcience grows more arduous, the nearer they approach to it, are fain to give up their good reſolutions at once; — ſcrape up a few propoſitions in Euclid, and a ſimple equation for a degree; — go through the forms of the Senate-houſe; and, in all probability, leave the Univerſity by far worſe ſcholars than they entered it.

It is neither my buſineſs nor my incli-

inclination to *proſe* to you upon the uſefulneſs of Mathematical learning: — it is ſufficient that it has its uſes; or otherwiſe, men the moſt diſtinguiſhed for character and abilities, I may ſay, in theſe kingdoms, would not only not have thought it ſo well deſerving of their own time and application, but would have been more ſparing in their recommendations of it to the attention of the riſing genii of the age. But, ſetting this diſquiſition aſide, I do not allow you, whatever good opinion you may have of yourſelf, to be a competent judge of what ſtudies are moſt exactly proper for you, and what not. — "A young

"ſoldier (ſays an agreeable writer) "muſt be contented to learn his ex- "erciſe upon the authority of his "commander, before he can be ſatiſ- "fied of its uſe in the field." — In the ſame manner, though you may not, at firſt, ſee the uſefulneſs of thoſe ſciences to which you may be directed by your tutor, I would not have you think it neceſſary to deſpiſe them. In ſuch a caſe, it is much more probable that he ſhould be right than you. — Be not therefore diſcouraged, but perſevere; and you will find moſt difficulties vaniſh, and will be even ſurprized afterwards wherein their difficulty conſiſted. I do not mean

mean to deſire you to be a mere plodding book-worm; but of this I am poſitively certain, — that a man who applies regularly, though but for a few hours, every day, to the ſtudies of the Univerſity, without ſuffering thoſe hours to be interrupted, will be intitled, at the three years end, to a very reſpectable degree. I ſay regularly, and without interruption: for if you allow your hours of ſtudy to be broke in upon by loungers, or if you give them up for parties of pleaſure or amuſement, you will find it very difficult to make up for them by the even redoubling your application.

I think

I think I have now ſaid as much to you upon the two important articles of money and time as I dare, and as much as the extent of my deſign will admit of; which was only to point out to you ſome uſeful hints upon which your own good ſenſe might afterwards improve. I ſhall now preſent you with a few miſcellaneous obſervations, as they may offer themſelves to my mind: and, if I omit any thing of any material import, ſhall be happy in the idea that your own penetration may ſupply it.

Next to your ſtudies, ought properly to be conſidered your diverſions. I ſhall be as brief about them

as

as poſſible; only giving you my own ſentiments about them, and leaving you to differ from or agree with me, as your own judgement may direct.

If you work, according to an old adage, you muſt play. — Granted. — But let that play conſiſt, not in the low and degrading pleaſures of an hoſtler; but in the amuſements of a man of a liberal and enlarged underſtanding. It is not my intention to point out to you in what ſeveral ways a man may unbend his mind without diminiſhing its vigour; but I ſhould conceive it poſſible for him to quit his books, and return to them with freſh

freſh alacrity, without having waſted his time, and been ſtripped of his money at the billiard-table or upon the turf at Newmarket. — And, I confeſs, I ſee no reaſon why a ſociable ride with a friend, if you can afford it, or a ſociable walk, which you certainly can afford, may not be full as amuſing and as conducive to health and good ſpirits, as if you had been making yourſelf beaſtly drunk over a bottle, been breaking windows, and had got taken up by the Proctor. The firſt of theſe ſpecies of amuſement, however, I take to be rather dangerous; for I have known ſome men ſo exceedingly fond of ſociable

rides,

rides, that they have ſcarcely ever been out of the ſaddle.

You will, probably, be aſked ſoon after your arrival to ſubſcribe to the circulating library.—This you muſt do as you pleaſe about.—It is in ſome reſpects exceedingly uſeful, though perhaps not generally approved of by the ſeniors of the Univerſity. If you want a conſiderable number of mathematical and metaphyſical books, (as probably you will) and cannot afford to purchaſe a library of your own, it may be worth your while to ſubſcribe:—but if you are enabled to buy what books you want at firſt, it will be altogether a needleſs

needleſs expence. — But of this, yourſelf muſt be the proper judge.

It is not unuſual for men of the ſame county, or from the ſame ſchool, to inſtitute CLUBS, of which you may perhaps be ſolicited to be a member. If you are ſure that they conſiſt of reſpectable men, and of thoſe with whom you may, from neighbourhood, have an intercourſe during the reſt of your life, it may not be amiſs to accept of ſome one invitation of this kind: — but, in general, they are uſeleſs things; and I think you had better be cautious how you admit yourſelf of them. They are more eaſily got into than out of.

The

The article of CLUBS puts me in mind of what is called, Company, in the uſual ſenſe of the word. Of this your own private fortune is the beſt ſtandard: — if you can afford to aſſociate, occaſionally, with men of approved character and abilities; — well and good. — But let it not be to ſuch a degree as to oblige you to give up your more material purſuits.

If you are ſo unfortunate as to be pronounced a *Quiz*, don't be aſhamed of it. — A QUIZ generally means a regular fellow, and very often a reſpectable man.

You ſee one denominated a Quiz becauſe he hangs his gown up every night,

night, and bruſhes it, and puts the taſſel of his cap in a paper; — another is ſo called becauſe he wears his hair, or the faſhion of his buckles, different from others of his own age. — If you have reaſons for theſe diſtinctions, be not afraid to own them; ſay boldly in the words of Horace,

"Juſtum et tenacem, &c."

If you have no reaſons, you may as well conform to the general cuſtom of people about you.

It is not reckoned faſhionable to go to *St. Mary's*, on a Sunday. — But I know no harm in going, nor that it is any reproach to a man's underſtanding to be ſeen publickly in the

the ſame place with the moſt dignified and reſpectable perſons of the Univerſity. — To ſay nothing about the regularity of the thing, and its being approved of by people whoſe good opinion you may be deſirous to obtain.

I would caution you, not a little, againſt puppyiſm, and the affectation of the character of a *Buck*. It is a diſeaſe which I ſcarcely ever knew a man cured of. If he commences a Puppy, he will be ſure to continue ſo. The word, BUCK, has, I am told, no very honourable meaning amongſt men of ſenſe. They frequently annex to it the idea of an in-

 conſi-

conſiderate fooliſh young fellow, who thinks the greateſt proof of his being a Gentleman is to waſte as much time, and to ſpend as much money as he poſſibly can. He, therefore, neglects every kind of improvement that might give him weight with men whoſe approbation is worth courting, and ſeeks only that of Bucks and Puppies like himſelf. This character, however, can only be acquired at firſt coming. It is ſeldom ſeen that a man ſtarts up into a Buck in his ſecond or third year. He may, perhaps, by ſome unexpected acceſſion to his fortune or his income, be enabled to dreſs and appear more like a Gentleman,

man, than the narrowneſs of his circumſtances might before allow; but it is very rarely that he is intitled to ſtile himſelf a Buck. — Beſides, it is too late. — A Buck and a Puppy being diſtinctions which are only to be acquired at firſt coming: and when once acquired, they are, as has been often obſerved, as indelible as the prieſthood. A Buck is moreover a very uſeleſs animal: a great burthen to himſelf, and to every body elſe. — And if thou, gentle Freſhman, haſt any ſeeds of this truly venerable character ſpringing up in thy boſom, I cannot give thee a ſtronger criterion of it than thy indignation excited at

my d——d quizzical obſervations, and thy ſincere and hearty wiſhes that thou hadſt the horſe-whipping of the Author, (which, by the bye, I am not certain whether thou couldeſt do if thou kneweſt him). — But if thou art the man of ſenſe I take thee to be, I am not afraid of ſubmitting my opinions to thy cenſure; for I am perſuaded thou wilt, if a man of ſenſe, have very little to beſtow upon them. I write not upon matters of ſpeculation and theory, "which are too high for me," but give you the genuine obſervations made in the courſe of my own little experience. Where that fails me, I preſume not to proceed.

ceed. Avoid, then, if you think it poſſible for yo ur fortune to allow you to wave ſuch a badge of diſtinction, the being dignified with the appellation of a Buck, or of a Puppy; for I fear there is very little difference. You may, poſſibly, deſpiſe thoſe who call you ſo, as much as they deſpiſe you; but I am afraid the majority, and that, too, conſiſting of ſenſible men, will be againſt you. — Dreſs, and appear as genteelly, if you can afford it, as the men of your own rank about you: — be always neat, but never foppiſh. — And I again decla re it; — If you once get the reputation of a coxcomb, you will find

it difficult, if not impoſſible, to ſhake it off.

Next to the character of a Buck, I would recommend to you to avoid that of a *Lounger*. A LOUNGER, to ſpeak of him in the light in which he conſiders himſelf, is a careleſs idle fellow; who, having given up all thoughts of ſtudy himſelf, has conceived the greateſt antipathy to it in every body elſe. All his endeavours are to contrive to kill, as much as he can, his deadly enemy, Time. He ſtrolls with liſtleſs inattention from one room to another, picks his teeth, ſits under the hands of his hairdreſſer, and then dozes, like a

ſpaniel,

ſpaniel, by his fire-ſide.—This is the moſt favourable picture of a Lounger. —It not unfrequently is ſeen in nature, that the Lounger, incapable, from habitual idleneſs of any active exertions, by which his mind might be agreeably exerciſed, is driven, from a ſort of deſpair, to what he calls, "A friend and a bottle;" gets into a perpetual round of company, without ever enjoying it; and, very poſſibly, degenerates into an abſolute ſot. If, by chance, he plucks up his courage, and rouſes himſelf to action, the moſt he can prevail upon himſelf to do, is to ride, hunt, ſhoot, or to go to Newmarket.—But here he ap-

proximates to the Buck; of whom I have ſpoken before.

Let me once more purſuade you, then to avoid the contagion of lounging. If you love company, it is a moſt indiſputable truth, that you will enjoy it much more from having devoted a few hours of the day to regular application and books, than if you had indolently waſted the whole. If you do not love it, the Muſes are ſeldom ungrateful; — and you may reſt pretty ſure of their repaying, with intereſt, whatever regards you may think proper to beſtow upon them. — But then, as with the reſt of their ſex, you muſt pay them a great deal

deal of attention and reſpect, or you will never be their favourite.

I have not ventured, ſpeaking of your ſtudies, to direct you to any particular books; of theſe your tutor is the moſt proper judge. There are two, however, generally recommended to Freſhmen at Cambridge, as the ground-work of their future knowledge. It is needleſs, almoſt, to ſay they are Euclid and Maclaurin's Algebra. It ſeems queer to mention them; neither ſhould I, but for an uſeful hint, which at this inſtant occurs to me. We frequently ſee men of your claſs come up to College, a month, perhaps, or more, before the

diviſion

diviſion of the October Term. Do not, as is too frequently done, lounge away this time after nothing; but enquire of your tutor which of the two abovementioned books you ſhall probably have occaſion for firſt at lectures. — Apply to that, — and endeavour to ſhoot as far a-head in it as you can. You will find it of very eſſential ſervice. It will give you freſh ſpirits to find you are one of the beſt informed men of your year. — You will proceed with vigour, and be aſhamed to be outſtripped by any one; and by keeping cloſely up with lectures during the firſt term, you will be laying for yourſelf a ſolid

foundation, and will find them much eaſier ever afterwards. On the other hand, if you ſuffer yourſelf to be diſtanced at firſt, it is fifty to one that you will always continue ſo. The men of your own ſtanding will be getting forward, and you muſt have a great ſuperiority of genius, as well as beſtow an extraordinary degree of application ever to overtake them.— Endeavour therefore, if you poſſibly can, to keep before. You can ſcarcely conceive the ſatisfaction it will afford you. — But be ſtrenuous, — be vigilant, — let nothing eſcape you. — You are now at the grand puſh. — Aut Cæſar aut nullus. — If you ſhine

now

now you always will; — but beware how you relax. — A loſt Freſhman's year, as I have before told you, is ſeldom recovered.

If you ſhould fortunately ſucceed to your ſatisfaction in your firſt term, (and you may if you pleaſe) loſe no time, but proceed regularly forward during the Chriſtmas vacation. You will by this method be ſtill farther advanced; will be ſtill more reſpected: and will find yourſelf in a fair way to gain an eminence in literature before unlooked for.

As to what I have hitherto been ſaying, I have particularly inſiſted upon your attention to it AT FIRST.

After-

— Afterwards may be too late. — Conſider yourſelf as now at the Rubicon, — your fate hanging in ſuſpence, — and intirely depending upon the firſt proper or improper uſe of your time. — Conſider that upon this preſent immediate uſe may reſt more of your future happineſs than you are aware of.

Having forgot a circumſtance or two relating to pecuniary matters, whilſt I was "harping" upon that diſagreeable theme, œconomy; I think it will be better to mention them now, though a little out of their place, than to omit them altogether.

It is uſual for you to be aſked at your

your firſt coming into College for the perquiſite of a ſhilling, — in ſome Colleges half-a-crown, by your bed-maker, — ſhoe-cleaner, — coal-porter, &c. This, though a villainous impoſition, cuſtom has unfortunately given a ſanction to. — You had better, therefore, purchaſe their good-will, by giving to the principal and moſt neceſſary ones amongſt them, than run the hazard of being neglected by them upon all occaſions when they have an opportunity of doing it. The cuſtom of Chriſtmas-boxes, and Sunday gratuities to hair-dreſſers, from the ſame cauſe, and for the ſame reaſons, I think it prudent in you to comply

comply with; rather than, by refuſing, to get the reputation of a ſtingy dirty fellow. — Let, however, your generoſity be confined within due bounds: for if you give to every little paltry raſcal, who, without belonging to the College, and without ever having done any thing for your ſervice, chooſes to make a demand upon you, you may ſoon be duped out of all the money you have in your pocket.

A reaſon why I have been ſo exceedingly urgent with you, to be cautious how you throw away your money at firſt coming to College, is this. — The caution money depoſited in the hands of your tutor, though

conſidered, ſome years back, as ſufficient to reimburſe for one quarter's expences on your account, ſuppoſing your own payments ſhould be dilatory, is not always found to be ſo now. He is, therefore, under the neceſſity of reſtricting you in ſome particulars, and of declaring himſelf anſwerable for you only as far as a certain ſum; though, perhaps, this certain ſum be very inadequate to your own unavoidable conſumption. Thus it is (in moſt Colleges, I mean) with reſpect to the grocer, — hairdreſſer, &c. — The remainder of the account is brought in to you, under the denomination of a *Retro*; to be diſcharged

charged by a draft upon your own private pocket. This you, probably, will not know at your firſt arrival, and therefore cannot be provided againſt. — But I leave you to gueſs how aukwardly a man feels at having ſuch diſagreeable memorials preſented to him, without being able to return a proper anſwer.

As I have talked to you about ſtudy, amuſements, and frugality, you may expect that I ſhould make a long harangue againſt vice, in general: — but as I am not intitled, profeſſionally, to preach *at* you, I muſt leave it to thoſe who are; and ſubmit your adherence to what are called the paths

of moral rectitude, to your own prudence, and to the reſpect due to your own character as a Gentleman. — Though I muſt take the liberty to obſerve, how much ſoever you may ridicule my notions, that I do not fancy drinking, ſwearing, gaming, &c. to be the diſtinguiſhing accompliſhments which make up that character: — nor do I believe, that you yourſelf would reſpect a man a whit the more for having only half a noſe, than if he had an whole one.

I muſt repeat to you for, at leaſt, the fourth time, that what I have been now penning is not matter of ſpeculation, but practice: and you will

will be perhaps induced to believe me, when I tell you, — that it is not a formal old fellow, in a white wig, who gives you this counſel; but one with his hair in a queue, like your own: and who, having juſt trodden the path you are about to proceed upon, has it, therefore, the more ſtrongly imprinted in his memory.

You will then pertinently aſk, "Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?" — Faith, nobody that I know of. — I am neither judge nor ruler. — I only give you the advice of a friend; and if you take it, it may be for your own advantage. — If not, — you may, for aught I know,

have equal reaſon to repent it. — But this I know for certain, — that, had I been informed, three years ago, of all that I have now been telling you, it might have prevented me many very diſagreeable reflections.

I have thus ventured, as a companion, and brother, to give you my ſentiments upon a ſubject which I do not recollect to have ſeen treated of in a conciſe and ſimilar manner before. I ſincerely wiſh that they may be of ſome little ſervice to you, and that you may not repent the Ten Minutes you have beſtowed on the peruſal of them. You may, not improbably,

bly, aſſert, that I have told you nothing new, nor recommended any thing to you, but what you could, with the ſame facility, have recommended to me. — So thought I, at your age; but experience has convinced me to the contrary. I believe that between you and me there is a great gulf fixed, and that you muſt undergo a ſort of fiery ordeal before you can paſs it. — My endeavour has been to render that trial as little painful to you as poſſible: — and ſhould you for your own ſake, think it worth while to attend to the hints here given you; I am moſt firmly of opinion, that, at the end of three years, you will have

have very little reaſon to complain of, ridicule, or abuſe, the advice of

A QUESTIONIST.

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